

Submission
No 16

**INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND
PRISON-RELATED SERVICES**

Name: Mr Derek Kreckler

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The issue at hand "The privatisation of prisons and prison-related services" is beyond the scope of the GPSC 3. The subject of this inquiry should be examined by the Social Issues Committee because the inquiry outcome may effect the social development of people in NSW. When prisoners have very few rights, those they do have lead them to different paths of action. We are in part responsible for those pathways.

It is in the interest of the community that prisoners are able to maintain dignity or at least enabled opportunity in which they may develop. I think it is illogical to suggest that private enterprise could do this any less expensively or more humanely than State Government.

I say this mindful of the management travesty witnessed in the privatised illegal immigrant internment centres during the previous Federal Government and reported on by the media. Clearly much learning and psychological preparation of the type required to run these centres humanely was not passed on to all staff or effective for all staff. The type of training required is not inexpensive.

If the reason be money can there be a saving without contracting prison standards? And, how would privatisation better prison standards? I mean will there be opportunity for the prisoners to develop through work and education programmes or will the newer system be hi-tech with low staff numbers.

Will the staff be experienced? Able to deal with hardened men and women? Not as was the case in Woomera and Port Headland where due care was (in part) abandoned. These places should teach us that when lax planning and short-term objectives meet inexperience, confused emotions and psychological limitations, problems follow.

I write this from approximately 3 years experience working as an educator in Long Bay Prison and Goulburn Gaol MS, albeit many years ago. There is no further attachment to my submission. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.